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For the Year

1958

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Mayor:

Alderman J.J. THOMAS.

Chairman - Public Health Committee:

Councillor J.G. JEZZARD.

Public Health Committee: Alderman G. Cleverly.  
Alderman A. Mottershead.  
Alderman F.J. Snelling.  
Councillor W. Baxter.  
Councillor D.S. Pettet.  
Councillor L.R. Barlow.  
Councillor Miss M.R. Turner.  
Councillor R. Hambidge.  
Councillor Mrs. I.E. Boyle.  
Councillor N.H. Cork.  
Councillor A.H. Jutson.  
Councillor F. W. Daniels.  
Councillor F. Ratcliffe.  
Councillor A. M. Sproul.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Public Health Inspector ... ..	G.T. ROWLANDS.
Additional Public Health Inspector...	A.H. LAWRENCE.
Clerk ... ..	MISS E.V. MILES.

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Town Clerk

BARRIE ROBERTS.

Surveyor.

G.T. ROWLANDS.



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## BOROUGH OF SANDWICH 1958.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the following report on the year 1958.

The Borough remains unchanged in area, but the Richborough part of the district changes rapidly in character to a developing hive of industry.

The mid-year population of 5,350 gained 63 by births and lost 64 by deaths; the other 199 fall in the population therefore representing a move away of some service population.

The birth rate of 14.5 per 1,000 population is below the national birth rate of 16.4, while the death rate of 14.7 per 1,000 population is above the national death rate of 11.7. However one must correct for the slight preponderance of elderly persons in the population and these corrected figures give a birth rate of 16.7 and a death rate of 12.9, a much better comparison.

Further statistical detail follows later in the report.

### Infectious Diseases.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was low. It was not a Measles year and of the 7 cases notified 5 occurred in the summer months. There were 5 cases of Scarlet Fever all between the ages of 4 and 9 years. It is the usual experience in other than epidemic periods that this haemolytic streptococcal manifestation shows itself in the Primary School age groups. Only one case of Scarlet Fever was admitted to hospital.

One case of infectious encephalitis occurred, unfortunately fatal, due to a virus generally found in monkeys.

Tuberculosis was responsible for nearly one third of the notifiable diseases reported, i.e., 2 pulmonary cases and 4 non-pulmonary cases. These cases were all admitted to hospital except for 1 non-pulmonary case. In addition one death from pulmonary tuberculosis was recorded in a person who had not been notified as suffering from the disease.



Protection against Infectious Disease.

The vaccination and immunization scheme of the County Council provides for protection against smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough, and poliomyelitis. This is provided through the family doctor, or at child welfare clinics or through special immunization sessions at schools or otherwise.

There is also a special B.C.G. Vaccination scheme to provide basal protection against tuberculosis which is done by specially trained medical officers or the Chest Physician and is available to 13 year old school children or contacts of known cases.

The protection provided during 1958 for the first group of diseases (no figures are available for B.C.G. vaccination) was as follows.

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Number up to 2 years.</u>
Diphtheria	Primary Immunization	71	57
	Reinforcing Immunization	38	-
Smallpox	Primary Vaccination	34	32
	Revaccinations	29	-
Whooping Cough inoculations		77	67
Poliomyelitis up to 15 years		598	79
Others		91	-

It appears that about 60 - 65% of children are fully protected against diphtheria and 50% against smallpox. Whooping Cough protection is more popular than either of these in the children up to age 2 years.

Your obedient servant,  
Malcolm S. Harvey.  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



Statistics (Vital and Morbid)

Population 4,350	(Male 2,152; Female 2,198: Estimated)	
Live Births =63	Male 31 Female 32	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	= 14.5	16.4
Stillbirths = 1		
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	= 15.6	21.6
Total live and stillbirths	= 64	
Infant Deaths = 4		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, total	= 64.4	22.5
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	= 66.7	
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate	= NIL	
Neonatal mortality rate (first 4 weeks)		
per 1,000 live births	= 47.6	
Illegitimate live births percent of total live births	= 4.8%	
Maternal deaths	= NIL	
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still births	= NIL	
Deaths all causes	= 64 Male 32 Female 32	
Deaths under 1 year	= 4 Male 3 Female 1	
Deaths under 4 weeks	= 3 Male 2 Female 1	
Death rate per 1,000 population	14.7	11.7
Death rate per 1,000 population Male	= 14.9	
Female	= 14.5	
Death rate from cancer of lung & bronchus		
per 1,000 population	= 0.92	0.439
Death rate for all other cancers		
per 1,000 population	= 2.1	1.685

Causes of Death

Deaths 1958	M.	F.	Total 1958	Total 1957
Tuberculosis. Respiratory ... ..	1	-	1	1
Other Forms ... ..	1	-	1	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ... ..	-	-	-	2
Lungs and Bronchus	1	3	4	2
All others ... ..	3	6	9	3
Diabetes ... ..	-	1	1	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	6	11	7
Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	5	2	7	7
Other Heart Diseases ... ..	2	2	4	1
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	3	3	6	6
Pneumonia ... ..	1	2	3	2
Bronchitis ... ..	1	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle accidents .. ...	1	1	2	-
All other accidents ... ..	1	2	3	1
Suicide ... ..	2	-	2	-
Other defined and ill defined diseases	4	4	8	3
TOTAL ... ..	32	32	64	36

Age distribution.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths under age 1 year	3	1
to age 15	1	-
" " 45	1	2
" " 55	1	-
" " 65	5	4
" " 75	10	13
Above 75	10	12

While the 4 deaths from Cancer of **Lung** and Bronchus occurred in 3 females and 1 male in the two suicidal deaths both male, this condition was present.

Infectious Disease - Incidence by Quarter and Age.

Disease	Quarter					Age					Total 1957
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total 1958	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25+	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	3	-	1	1	5	2	3	-	-	-	4
Whooping Cough ... ..	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Measles ... ..	1	1	5	-	7	2	3	1	-	1	7
Infectious Encephalitis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
"Polio" ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Tuberculosis						0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45+	
Respiratory ... ..	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	1
Others ... ..	-	-	1	3	4	-	-	1	1	2	-

Tuberculosis

Register at 31/12/57

at 31/12/58.

Pulmonary	Male	9	10
	Female	14	12
Non-Pulmonary	Male	2	6
	Female	1	1

Environmental Matters.

Housing.

Oak Cottages were represented during the year, and after some delay in order to ensure that houses would be available for the occupants, the Council declared this a Clearance Area. Creighton House flats were built to house the occupants who moved in at the close of the year, a move which upgraded the housing standards of a small group of the community that had been very patient in tribulation.

The Council carried through its plan to provide a Warden for the Old Persons Bungalows in the Housing Estate, to provide a person who would be expected to answer any urgent call for assistance, to call medical or nursing assistance as required, and to be a sort of guardian angel at the end of an alarm system in order that frail, infirm or suddenly ill residents should never feel cut off and afraid. This development was made with the kindly financial aid of the County Council.



### Sewerage.

Work was done during the year on the survey of our sewerage system, having in mind future needs to avoid pollution of the river if this comes under River Board control. Float tests for a sea outfall proved unsatisfactory and at the end of the year we were at the stage of thinking again on the problem.

### Refuse Disposal.

One Refuse Tip is in the Rural District and we have both a moral and a public health obligation to control it. For a period conditions deteriorated badly but were improved with the help of mechanical pushers and levellers by the end of the year.

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The Surveyor/Chief Public Health Inspector supplies the following detail on his work in the Borough.

### Water Supplies.

The water supply of the Borough is under the control of the Thanet Water Board, and the area is completely covered by mains supply. This department is only concerned in the routine sampling of the water from the mains. During the year 6 water samples were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratories for bacteriological examination. In every case the sample was reported upon as being highly satisfactory.

Last year it was decided that as the old  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " lead service from Woodnesborough Road up behind the houses in Laburnum Avenue was defective the houses should be connected to the 3" main in Laburnum Avenue and the lead service cut out. The work commenced last year and was completed early this year. It was also decided that the same sort of action should be taken in respect of the bad service running from Woodnesborough Road up behind the houses on the Western side of the road. Here again trouble has been experienced with the lead service and it was resolved that in the event of future trouble the houses be connected to the main in St. Barts Road and the lead service put out of use. So far no trouble has been experienced but in view of the state of the pipe I anticipate the work will have to be undertaken next year.

### Drainage.

It is some time since active discussions on the provision for some sort of proper sewage disposal for Sandwich commenced and I think it would be appropriate if I outlined the past discussions and action before reporting on the year's work on this project.

Before the war this need was recognised and steps were then taken to place money on one side annually to help the cost of the scheme when it was undertaken. Discussions took place late in 1954 and early in 1955 on the whole problem and in June, 1955 I was instructed to contact Messrs. Scott, Wilson & Kirkpatrick, consulting engineers, and instruct them to:-

1. Investigate the problem, giving a report on the best way of collecting the sewage from the Town and Industrial Area and treating it.
2. Advise on the size of pumps required (the existing stations being used), overflows and weirs for separate storm water, and to report on the suitability of the existing sewage works for use as a basis for a new sewage works.
3. To give a rough estimate of the costs of the entire scheme.

Before doing this the engineers thoroughly investigated and prepared a map of the existing system giving levels and depths, which in itself has proved to be of immense value. Then in September 1956 they issued a comprehensive report, as instructed, on the whole problem. The cost of the scheme was very high and during the consideration of the report methods of providing a satisfactory sewage disposal at a reduced cost were considered. This could only be effected if:-

1. The river board would agree to a partial treatment instead of a full treatment, although provision would have to be left for completion of the works at a later date.
2. A suitable sea outfall could be constructed.

Discussions took place with the Ministry and the River Board on these alternatives and it was decided to carry out float tests in Sandwich Bay to ascertain whether or not the offshore currents were suitable for the formation of such an outfall. The float tests were carried out by Messrs. Lewis & Duvivier during 1958 from several points in the Bay stretching from Sheerness to a point well south of the Guildford Hotel. It was found that because of the sandbanks it was impossible to find any point in that Bay from which it could be guaranteed that a discharge of sewage would be taken out to sea. In fact from any point in the Bay 90% of the floats drifted ashore after a very short time.

Because of this any idea of a sea outfall had to be dropped and it was decided in view of the good report of Mr. Monk's survey of the River Stour in June, 1957 to endeavour to obtain permission for a sewage works giving partial treatment. Negotiations along these lines are still continuing and it is hoped that next year more tangible progress can be reported.

Besides work on this scheme work has continued in an endeavour to improve the existing system and considerable work has been carried out to the pumping stations.



### Food & Food Preparation Premises.

During the year 121 visits were made to food shops and food preparation premises to ensure that the existing high standards were maintained. It was not found necessary to serve any formal notices and, as always, the staff of the department experienced nothing but full co-operation in their dealing with traders. Any verbal suggestions made in the course of visits were received very well and acted upon promptly.

### Butchers Shops.

All butchers shops, food preparation rooms, and vehicles transporting meat have been regularly inspected and the high standards of hygiene have been maintained and improved. The increase in refrigerator accommodation and the provision of separate hot water for hands and utensils are the items which have been receiving most attention. The vehicles transporting meat have also been inspected and here again the standards have been maintained.

### Licensed Premises.

Once again the continued inspection of licensed premises has resulted in a marked improvement in the provision of proper conveniences and the proper washing of glasses. In some cases quite considerable alterations have been undertaken to give the required results.

### Ice Cream.

Ice cream is not manufactured in the Borough but 21 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. With the exception of cafes the sale is all of prepacked ice cream.

During the year all the premises so registered were regularly inspected and in all cases conditions were found to be satisfactory.

### Bakers Shops and Bakeries.

The routine inspection of bakers shops and bakeries continued throughout the year and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

### Shops.

All food shops and most other shops were inspected during the year and a total of 272 lbs. of tinned and other food stuff was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Milk and Dairies.

- A. Milk and Dairies Regulation 1949. Part III  
 No. of registered distributors 4  
 No. of registered dairies 2
- B. Licences granted under Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949, excluding licences granted by Food & Drug Authorities in relation to milk pasteurised or sterilised on the premises of the applicant.

	<u>Dealers.</u>	<u>Supplementary.</u>
Pasteurised	3	2
Sterilised	2	1
T.T.	3	1

During the year 8 milk samples were taken and all except one proved to be satisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample was taken during a hot spell and another sample taken later proved quite satisfactory.

The retail dairies were regularly inspected throughout the year and as the result of suggestions a constant hot and cold water supply was installed in both dairies where conditions are now quite satisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods.

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
Cattle	1582	1753	2595	2396
Calves	947	1501	1633	1000
Sheep	2843	6102	8048	6121
Pigs	<u>11494</u>	<u>13041</u>	<u>18829</u>	<u>15896</u>
Total	<u>16866</u>	<u>22397</u>	<u>31105</u>	<u>25419</u>
% increase or decrease	+ 60% on 1954.	+ 32%	+ 33%	- 18%

There is one slaughter house in the Borough, a private slaughter house owned by T.Wood & Sons Ltd., of Canterbury, situated in Loop Street, Sandwich. The table above shows the number of animals killed and dressed at this slaughter house during the four years 1955 - 58. It will be noted that for the first time since 1954 there has been a decrease in the numbers slaughtered though even then the increase over 1954 is about 142%. This reduction is accounted for by a number of outside factors such as the incidence of Foot & Mouth Disease and internal policy changes within the firm and I believe that next year will once again show the normal increase in numbers.

During the year in the course of over 800 visits 25,419 animals were inspected post mortem and a large number also before slaughtering. In the course of these inspections 14 tons llcwt of meat and offal was condemned as being unfit for human consumption.



The table below giving details of numbers of animals slaughtered and the incidence of disease is very interesting and worth study. The number of cattle (excluding cows) found to be suffering from T.B. is surprisingly low and reflects on the success of the establishment of an Eradication Area. 0.21% of the number of cattle (excluding cows) were found to be affected with Tuberculosis and all those were reactors which were excluded from the herds.

The much higher percentage of cows affected by the disease is in a small part accounted for by reactors but mainly by the import of animals for slaughter from outside the area.

The high percentage of other disease found in all classes of animals is of little importance, the vast majority of the conditions found were those due to climatic or geographical conditions. Parasite disease such as liver fluke causing cirrhosis of the liver was very common but this is to be expected considering the low lying and marsh district favours the spreading of this disease.

Taking into account the numbers inspected the number of those affected by disease were reasonable and the percentages those that would be expected in this type of area.

#### Meat Inspection.

No. killed  
No. inspected  
All diseases except T.B.  
& C.Bovis.  
Whole carcase condemned.  
Carcases of which some part  
or organ was condemned.  
Percentage of the number  
inspected affected with  
disease other than T.B.  
or C.Bovis.  
Tuberculosis only.  
Whole carcase condemned.  
Carcases of which some  
part or organ was condemned.  
Percentage of the number  
inspected affected with T.B.  
Cysticercus.  
Carcases of which some part  
or organ was condemned.  
Carcases submitted to treat-  
ment by refrigeration  
Generalized and totally  
condemned.

Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
1204	1192	1000	6121	15896
1204	1192	1000	6121	15896
-	-	3	20	33
267	403	4	198	1620
22.14%	33.8%	.7%	3.5%	10.4%
1	4	-	-	2
4	124	-	-	485
0.21%	10.70%	-	-	3.06%
5	1	-	-	-
5	1	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-

Council Property.  
Housing.

The Council Estate was completed in 1956 and no fresh building has taken place in the estate. Eight one bedroom flats were, however, built in the grounds of Creighton House. These were built mainly for the rehousing of tenants of Oak Cottages and it was decided that infilling in the Borough close to their existing dwellings was more desirable than more on the outskirts of the Borough. The tenants rehoused on Creighton House site are near their friends, near the shops they are used to and closer to those activities in which they took part.

During the year, however, improvements continued to be made to the existing estate. The annual repainting of the exterior of over 60 houses took place and the gay colour scheme already started continued and has considerably brightened the estate. The number of tenants desiring to erect garages on the estate has increased thus reflecting the modern trend, and more applications of this nature can be expected in the future. Improvements to the small playground behind Sandwood Road, and to the verges were carried out so as to enhance the appearance and amenities of the estate.

Warden Group.

During the year it was decided to turn the group of 28 bungalows into a small old folks unit with a Warden Service provided. The tenants of these bungalows are all elderly people, mostly single and it was felt that some overall supervision by a warden would be desirable. It was decided that the warden should occupy one of the bungalows and that the following amenities be provided:-

1. A night alarm system whereby any tenant in an emergency could pull a cord, which besides ringing a bell in the Warden's house would light a lamp outside the bungalow calling for assistance.
2. All the locks to be changed so that tenants could have their individual and separate key, but the Warden hold a master key for use in emergency only.

This work was put to tender and carried out and applicants sought for the position of Warden to this group. It is hoped that a suitable candidate can be chosen and the scheme come into effect in January, 1959.

Other Property.

During the year 13 schemes were submitted for improvement grants with a total improvement cost of £6,831.

Improvement grants were made in every case and the grants approved amounted to £3,400.



These improvement grants are serving an extremely useful purpose as far as Sandwich is concerned. In a Borough as old and historic as this it is fatally easy for property to fall into such disrepair that it is impossible to save, and demolition is the only practical course. This would be a calamity for the street picture would be lost and the character of the Borough would be adversely affected. Over recent years, usually with the help of improvement grants uneconomic sums of money have been spent on property thus the appearance of parts of Sandwich has been immeasurably improved, and the street picture retained and enhanced.

### Slum Clearance.

The erection of 3 one bedroom flats in the grounds of Creighton House has facilitated the rehousing of tenants from the 6 Oak Cottages, and demolition notices were served in respect of this group of dwellings.

As well as this 3 houses in the Borough were closed and the tenants rehoused. Undertakings were accepted in all these cases that the dwellings should not be reoccupied until the required work is carried out. In all these cases I anticipate that the owner will either carry the work out or sell the undertaking in force and the new owner carry out the necessary work.

### General Housing Inspections.

A. Numbers of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health & Housing Acts	109
B. Houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation.	24
C. Houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense.	9
D. Dwellings where defects were remedied after informal action.	13
E. Dwellings which were rendered fit after serving formal notices.	2
F. Dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made (Closing Orders under Section 17 Housing Act, 1957 Sub. Section 1)	3
Dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made.	6
G. Houses Demolished.	NIL
H. Houses in which closing orders in respect of part of a building were made.	NIL

Rent Act 1957.

Six applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the above Act were received and dealt with. Two undertakings were received from owners and in each case the necessary work was carried out.

Refuse Removal.

The weekly collection of refuse and its disposal at the controlled tip on the Council's site adjacent to the Ash Road continues unchanged. This has proved to be quite satisfactory but the increased collection and collection of trade refuse has necessitated the hiring of mechanical implements to assist in maintaining the tip in a good condition.

No fly nuisance has been caused, but there has been evidence of rat infestation. This however has been very limited as prompt treatment has reduced the nuisance to a minimum.

Factories. (1937 and 1948 Factories Acts).

	<u>On Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Notices</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
Those where Sections 1,2,3,4,6 are enforced by L.A.	1	-	-	-
Those where Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	36	10	2	-
Other premises where Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	1	-	-	-
Total	38	10	2	-
Defects	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.I.	Referred by H.M.I.
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	1	1	-	-
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	3	3	-	-
Other offences	2	2	-	-
Total	6	6	-	-

There are 75 out workers who make receptacles partly or wholly of paper for a nearby factory.



### Rodent Control.

During the year considerable work was carried out in inspecting properties for evidence of rodent infestation, investigating complaints and in the treatment of infestation when located. 52 properties were treated, 5 properties belonging to the Corporation, 44 dwelling houses and 3 business properties. In only 3 cases were there major infestation of rats, and in 2 instances there was a major infestation of mice. The other 47 treatments were only for minor infestations and dealt with very readily.

Once again the direct surveys have been confined to Council lands, (controlled tip, Delf Stream etc.,) and to Agricultural premises. The greater bulk of inspections under the Pests Act were carried out as routine when visiting premises under the other Acts.

417 general survey visits were made during the year.

### Methods of Control.

The standard method of control has continued to be by the use of Warfarin which in the main has proved to be most satisfactory. In some cases however such as the Controlled Tip the available food has proved of more attraction than the Warfarin and recourse has had to be made to the older type of poisons and baits. Where however alternative food is less attractive or more difficult to obtain the results of the Warfarin have been excellent.

### Sewer Treatment.

One sewer treatment was carried out during the year. A general representative test baiting of the Borough including the housing estate was carried out and only partial takes were registered in manholes near the river.

This result appears to be normal and although a few lengths of sewer discharging into the river are regularly used by rats the infestation seldom spreads beyond the individual drain. The treatment of the river banks to eliminate this source of infestation is almost impossible because of the soft and dangerous mud, the considerable tidal range and the inaccessibility of most of the drains. Constant attention is being paid to manholes in the neighbourhood of the river and when necessary treatment will be undertaken at these points.

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY - SANDWICH

Report 1958.

	<u>No. of Vessels</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
Home Waters	34	5100	3
Foreign Going	9	1838	7
Total	<u>43</u>	<u>6938</u>	<u>10</u>

During the year 43 vessels with a total tonnage of 6,938 tons visited the port. These vessels either discharged at Messrs. Pfizers Wharf or the Town Quay, the Port of Richborough being closed for the entire period and consequently no vessels visited it. The commodities discharged by these vessels consisted of:-

Timber	1840 Tons.
Heavy Fuel Oil	5090 Tons.

A total of 10 inspections were made of vessels using the port and except for two vessels everything was found to be satisfactory. In the other two cases the defects consisted of:-

- (1) Leaking deckhead and absence of proper sanitary accommodation.
- (2) Leaking deckhead and certificate of deratisation which had expired.

In each case the owners and the Home Port Health Authority were notified of the defects.



